



Meet at Community Centre
Prebendal Avenue
1.30 p.m. for Notices at 2.00 p.m.
No Refreshments
No Recordings for Zoom
Bring Face Mask and Sanitise at Door
Speaker booked for 2.30 p.m.

Date	Speaker	Title
16 th September 2021	Tony Earl	The Charity Shop
21 st October 2021	Paul Barwick	The Mysterious death of MI6 spy and Code Breaker Gareth Williams

**Come and Book your u3a Summer Holiday
Visiting AVON and CARDIFF June 9th to June 13th 2022
Cost depending on number is £419 - £445**

Insurance £32

Single Supplement £100

Monthly Meeting

Booking Process from Scratch

September 2021

Please sign Booking List

October 2021

Please sign Booking List or collect your Booking Form

November 2021

Please collect your Booking Form if necessary

December 2021

Please return your Booking Form to Julie Leach (01296 4882820)
including Deposit £50, Insurance £32 (Optional)
Cheques payable to "Crusader Holidays"

Our u3a Day Trip

**WEDNESDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2021 A TRIP TO THE SOUTH COAST BRIGHTON
THERE WILL BE NO CHARGE FOR MEMBERS
CONSULT OUR WEBSITE (www.u3a.co) FOR “THINGS TO DO IN BRIGHTON”**

If you are interested, we will be taking names at the September meeting. Seating and social distancing will be strictly observed in accordance with the current guidelines. Brighton has many places of interest. We will be using Heyfordian coaches who in the past have provided a good service.

Geoff Short – Chair

We have just received the sad news that Dorothy Lock (a past Chair of our u3a) died on Saturday afternoon on September 11th in the Avondale Care Home. Dorothy had been suffering from ill health and had spent some time in Stoke Mandeville Hospital. Dorothy continued to serve on the committee for a number of years after her term of office was over. For 13 years, Dorothy and her husband Martin organized the trips for our u3a. For 8 of those years, Dorothy also organized our Carol Service for which she wrote and took part in numerous sketches. Her interests were varied and included membership of the Bridge Club, Travel Club and Transport History. We pass on our condolences to Martin and the rest of their family.

This month's Newsletter is another packed edition which I hope you will find a most interesting read. Thanks once again to Dave Rogers and our contributors.

Speaking of the Newsletter, I would like to think that we can continue to provide this by e-mail rather than reverting to the old-style paper version. The most obvious advantage of e-mail is that it keeps the price down! In addition, we can provide a much larger edition than is otherwise possible by paper. Of course, if you would prefer a paper version or do not have access to e-mail, then that will be fine. You will need to let me know if that is your preference. Any thoughts you have on this would be welcome.

As you will be aware, there are no refreshments being supplied this month. This, in part, is due to uncertainty about the numbers coming to the meeting but also there is a need for a new rota to be created as there isn't one at present. We, the Committee, would like to hear from anyone who is willing to join the list of those happy to help with refreshments in future. In particular, we wish to hear from those on the old rota who are happy to continue. Alex Dunk, who sets up and oversees the rota, will be creating a new one going forward – hopefully from October, but to do that we will need volunteers!

So, enjoy the latest Newsletter and hopefully we will see many of you at the September meeting where we look forward to hearing from Tony Earle, talking about “The Charity Shop”.

Dave Rogers – Editor

London: The Great River Race

Very few people realise that London has two marathon races – one on dry land (26.2 miles) in April and the other on water (21.6 miles) in September. “The Great River Race” was inspired by the immense interest generated by a 1987 charity event in which the shallop, or passenger barge from The Company of Watermen & Lightermen was rowed from Hampton Court to the Tower of London.

The first race took place in 1988 when 20 boats and 72 entrants took to the water from six different countries. Today, over 300 boats take part. In order to give all crews an equal chance, entrants were handicapped according to the calculated potential performance of their boats. This was done on a

scientific basis, using naval architects' plans and sophisticated calculations from a computer. To add spice to the contest, it was to be run on a 'slowest away first, fastest last' pursuit basis (The reverse of the road race where the fastest runners leave first). In spite of a start line handicap period of well over an hour some close racing was expected. This was achieved by every boat being individually timed over the course – the second past the winning post was declared the winner because it completed the course two minutes faster than the first boat to finish. Each year, the winner would receive and hold for one year, the handsome Challenge Trophy of The Company of Watermen & Lightermen.

Boats that want to take part in "The Great River Race" must all be of traditional design, with at least four oars or paddles and each boat has to carry at least one passenger, a cox and a flag (3ft x 2ft). The cox and passenger(s) may alternate with rowers during the race. Today, you may see Whaleboats, Dragon Boats, Currachs, Cutters, Celtic Longboats, Gigs and Skiffs taking part with some participants in fancy dress. Competitors can hire, buy or even build their boats from kits available from the Internet, should they not happen to have a traditional rowing boat handy.



The race is dependent on the tide and was originally rowed downstream from Ham House (near Richmond) to Greenwich on the outgoing tide. From 2009, the race has been rowed upstream from Docklands Sailing Centre to Ham House. The race heads west taking in (spectator) bridges such as Tower Bridge, London Bridge, Westminster Bridge, Battersea Bridge, Hammersmith Bridge and Richmond Bridge. Other favourite spots for watching the race are Victoria Embankment, Chelsea Embankment & Cheyne Walk.





This year, the race is on Saturday 25th September starting at 10.50 a.m. and finishing at 2.00 p.m.

Nowadays, all crews taking part, are equipped with GPS tracking systems so that the public and race organisers can track the progress of a particular boat by logging on to the Great River Race website.

Jasmine Reeks – Membership Secretary

MEMBERSHIP

Membership stands at 146. Hurrah a new member! Birthday Greetings to all you September babies. Enjoy your other celebrations too. Our Wedding Anniversary is this month – they said it wouldn't last.

YARN CRAFTERS

Is there anyone who would like to take over this group?

LOCAL HISTORY

For our **September** meeting, we have arranged on Tuesday 28th September 10.30 a.m. a guided walk around the buildings and park of Great Linford Manor Park, near Milton Keynes. We settled on that date as the facilities (toilets) are available, which is such a relief. For those who want to make a longer visit, exploring the park and walking along the canal would be a personal choice. We have emailed Local History members the details. Our guide is Ellie.

The **October** meeting is too difficult to arrange with my two weeks jury service, our monthly meeting and then school half term. No meeting this month.

November 25th at 10.15, a meeting where Rupert has generously agreed to produce a retrospective presentation at the Methodist Church of Local History Outings; with an indoor "picnic". **Please bring your lunch.** Drinks will be served.

JURY SERVICE – EDITOR



A fascinating 100-year-old video footage from “**Bucks Herald Archives**” shows the first ever female jurors to sit in Aylesbury Crown Court for a murder trial that gripped the country. The whole jury (nine men and these three women) are climbing into a horse-and-cart to travel from a church service to court in 1921.

The closest that I have come to a major crime was when I was working in Harrow. A female colleague was called for jury service at the Old Bailey. The trial was expected to last six weeks. On a Monday, about half way through the trial, the jury were given a day-off for the Judge to hear legal arguments on “No-case to answer”.

My friend visited the college on that day with a policewoman in tow. She joked that the policewoman was present “to make sure she kept silent about the trial”. The truth of the matter was that the policewoman was present for her protection. I never did discover who the suspects were; the result of the case nor why the jury had been semi-sequestered? Should they have been quarantined in a hotel for six weeks if their lives had been threatened?

During her life-time, Carol was called for jury service at Aylesbury Crown Court on three occasions. On each occasion, there were about three times as many women as men in the jury pool – how times have changed! On the third time, when she was sent home “surplus to requirements”, Carol was both angry and upset. What was wrong with her that meant she was unfit to judge people? I pointed out to her that, at least, she had been selected for the jury pool three times whilst I had never had that honour.

Tony Vickers

HUGHENDEN IN WORLD WAR II



Now run by the National Trust, Hughenden is a large country house set in over 600 acres and is about two miles from High Wycombe. Bought in 1848 by Disraeli, it was requisitioned by the military in 1940 and became known as Hillside. It's critical role during WW2 was to convert the daily intake of surveillance photographs taken largely by Coastal Command and Bomber Command into highly detailed target maps as the bombing offensive against occupied Europe gathered pace.



The scale of its task was awesome and work was intense and exhausting. Around 36 million photos from surveillance missions were processed at Hughenden; the Icehouse became the darkroom and operated on a 24/7 basis. The secluded site was not marked as a military base and target maps and illustrations were moved by couriers, often on bicycle, to Bomber Command HQ at Walters Ash, some three miles away. Secrecy was paramount; if its real identity had become known, it would have been a number one target for an aerial raid.

The overall emphasis in the work at Hughenden was on 'specific detail'; namely unearthing bombing sites not only covered in camouflage or below ground but also sites that changed use or were revealed through intelligence networks on the ground. Many old maps were out of date, omitted key details such as railway lines and were drawn to different scales. To build up a highly accurate picture of targets for bomber crews, detailed relief models were made at Hughenden. These were based on an egg box design and ranged from invasion sites in Sicily and Normandy to dams, rocket sites and ships. As saturation bombing of German towns increased, the use of infra-red rays to pierce cloud and fog brought astonishing results and completely overwhelmed German defence systems. Red flare balls were dropped to act as markers for incendiary bombs (on cities such as Hamburg and Cologne)

In the same vein, German surveillance was also adopting new technologies in preparation for invasion. While this threat receded somewhat after the Germans switched their attention to Russia, it remained on the agenda. From June 1943, greater use was made by Hitler of advanced fighters flying at 50,000 ft, using modern Zeiss lenses, and thus virtually undetectable. The devastation caused by V1 and the far more dangerous V2 rockets was a stark reminder of Britain's vulnerability. The chance discovery in an abandoned Brussels garage a few months after D Day of a collection of over 1million updated and highly detailed maps of all the UK pointed to German determination to invade our shores.

Following D Day in June 1944, the sheer intensity of fighting meant the Allies' reliance on all forms of military intelligence would be the key to shortening the war. A special and highly secretive unit called Houghteam (under US control) was formed to interrogate prisoners, monitor troop movements and above all to capture maps and orders. In Aachen, the first German city to fall into Allied hands in October, they achieved their first lucky break. Within the ruined Technical University, they came across bundles of folders containing precise survey data of all German territory yet to be captured. Quickly taken away, microfilmed and analysed, this vital data was then relayed to artillery and bomber units to improve targeting. Further finds in Strasburg and Bonn meant Houghteam would capture the largest cache of geographic and intelligence data ever obtained from an enemy power in wartime. It would lead to the development of GPS and the creation of geodetic networks, all now common in mobile phones.

Pat Pickering - Gardening Group

Our October meeting will be a talk by John Tyler who has visited us before and is a very good speaker. His talk will be "Natural Signals" (How plants communicate and what they are saying). This will be held at our normal meeting place of the Aylesbury Tennis Club, at 2pm on Tuesday 12th October 2021 and the cost will be £3 which will include refreshments. Pay at the September u3a meeting where I will have a sheet to sign.



I am opening this October talk to all u3a members.

Ann Burman – Quiz Group



We hope to resurrect the Quiz Group on 18th January 2022, but need to know how many people are interested in attending. For those who do not know about the group; it is held on every third Tuesday of the month at Aylesbury Tennis Club (2.00 p.m. until 4.00 p.m.). It's an afternoon of light-hearted quizzing (no prizes unfortunately) with a break for tea and biscuits.

If you feel like giving it a try or are one of our regulars and would like to return, there will be a sheet circulating at the u3a meetings in September and October in order for you to register your interest. If you are unable to attend either of the u3a meetings but wish to join the Quiz Group please contact either myself on 01296 422084 or Chris Blaik on 01296 425964.

Simon Reeks – Gadget Group

Another busy month, again involving the ever-popular upgrades to new SSDs (very fast Solid-State Devices as replacements of the older and inherently slow mechanical Hard Disk Drives).

I was able to cure the ills of an inkjet printer by running the "clean heads" utility that all such printers should have. If your prints are suffering from washed out colours or bands across the image, cleaning heads flushes the older drying out ink through the mechanism and may well improve the image - well worth trying.



Other issues involved replacing a blown power supply in a PC and sorting out a non-booting PC - if you get an error message on your PC or laptop stating that the date / time is not set there is a fair chance that the small button style backup battery cell has failed, this only costs a few pence to replace.

Another example of the evils of auto-renewing subscriptions - Norton antivirus was set to renew at £74.99, yet the member had BT broadband where the very similar McAfee antivirus is provided free of charge. A few minutes time and a saving of £74.99 a year.

If you need any help or advice about (non-Apple) gadgets, please contact me (01296 482735 or reeks@fangio.co.uk) and I'll see what I can do.

Next Contribution Date Friday 15th October
Contributions Welcome from ALL Members